



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 2, 2012

© Copyright 2012, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



'Ducky' weather

Commodore's Comments

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful weather we had last week for the Memorial Day weekend. We had a full house most of the weekend with our children and their gangs and some good family friends.

Thank you so those who have send in your BLYC dues and donations. Please remember the BLYC is primarily a social organization with other special interests in maintaining safe and clean lake water for use by all of us. So please join with your lake friends and neighbors and send in your dues and donations for the various improvement/fireworks funds. And please remember, you are always welcome at all the BLYC social events.

Speaking of social events, my cocktail party is Saturday, June 9, beginning at 7 pm at the Yacht Club. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Our next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, at 9

am at the Yacht Club. Please know that everyone is invited to attend any of the Board of Directors Meetings.

Here's to smooth sailing...

-Commodore Pam

Summer Olympics is theme of the 4th of July Boat Parade for 2012

The time has come once again to start thinking about the 4th of July Boat Parade on Birch Lake. The past several years we have not had a theme for the parade, which has been a disappointment to some. So this year we will celebrate the 2012 Summer Olympic games right here on Birch Lake! Ours will be know as the Birch Lake Summer Olympics 2012. The official Summer Olympics will take place in London and other parts of the UK this summer from July 27- Aug 12, and will consist of 26 different sports ranging from archery to wrestling. The Birch Lake Summer Olympics/parade is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 30. The activities will commence from Dick Bender's pier on the south side.

2012 BLYC Calendar

June 9	Commodore's Party
June 15.....	Ladies Coffee, 9-10:30
June 23	Spaghetti Dinner
June 30	Boat Parade
June 30	Fireworks
July 1	Pancake Breakfast
July 1.....	Fireworks Rain Date
July 14.....	Vice Commodore's Party
July 20	Women's Golf Outing
July 21	Poker Run/Camp T Hog Roast
July 27.....	Men's Golf Outing
Aug. 4	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 25	Fall Dinner
Sept. 8.....	Sailing Awards
Sept. 15 or 25	Game Night/Card Party
Oct. 6.....	Annual Chili Cook-Off

Board Meetings - 9 am (Saturdays)

June 2, July 7 (Homeowners Meeting to follow board meeting), Aug. 4, Sept. 8

Sailing Regattas

4th of July weekend; Labor Day weekend

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail to Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or any other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Pam Mullin, (269) 476-1080. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

The official Olympic site will give you and yours ample ideas to chose your very own Birch Lake Summer Olympics float idea. Couch surfing is not one of those events, by the way. So get your creative juices flowing and lets have a smashing summer olympic/parade this 4th of July holiday right here on our beloved Birch Lake!

Stay tuned for further details in upcoming issues of the Birch Lake Barker.

-Carla Chester and Ilene Golden

Township Cleanup Day Saturday!

Porter Township will host its annual Spring Clean Up day this Saturday, June 2, at American Waste Systems on Mason Street in Union.

BLYC Ladies' Tea
Friday, June 15
Time: 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Where: Birch Lake Yacht Club

New to Birch Lake? Or are you a summer resident? Ladies and gents, if you are looking to meet neighbors for the first time, or interested in reconnecting with old friends, stop by the Yacht Club for a cup of coffee or tea on the morning of Friday, June 15.

Here's a chance to catch up with neighbors, get acquainted with new families and enter your name in the drawing for a door prize. Name the author and book from the following quote to win: **"If we don't all stand together, there'll be no such thing as Society left."**

So we have enough food and drink, please call Carla Chester at 269-476-1467 or email Celia Fallon at Celia.Fallon@gmail.com. Thanks, and see you on the 15th!



On Memorial Day the morning quiet was shattered by a low level overflight of honkers. This is in itself not so unusual, but an interesting vignette played out when one goose splashed down just offshore and honked to the squadron, which honked back in dismay that one leader had dropped out of the wedge. Swimming goose continued irritated urgent honking to the increasingly distant flight which still honked back, looking over their shoulders at the goose who remained behind. A Beta goose took the lead, the wedge reformed and they disappeared over the tree-line (much to the dismay of the solitary straggler). A few minutes later, the honking started all over again. The flock had returned and made a collective water landing. They couldn't leave behind the Alpha ...

-Bob King

Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's
FLATWORK
experts



We specialize in decorative
Concrete Stamping
Colored Concrete
Concrete Staining



17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

Ph: (269) 279-7973

Fax: (269) 279-0133

E-mail: mmtlconcrete@aol.com

— Birch Lake Notes —

Sympathies

Terry and I have been coming to Birch Lake since we bought property here on the south shore in 1978, just seven months after we married. Terry had taken me for a ride to see Birch Lake, because it was a place he had come to love, in his youth. With his family, they had rented on the lake for three summers, for a month at a time. Terry's mother had looked for a place where the family could enjoy beauty and recreation together, in ease and comfort, especially given that Terry's older brother, Ron, was in a wheelchair. At the age of eight, Ron was stricken with polio, and, from that time, after a very serious bout with polio, used a wheelchair. Once we purchased our place, Ron was able to return to Birch Lake for visits. So, the circle of life, from their visits to Birch Lake in



If you needed some added incentive to be a bit more prudent in your boating activities ... be advised that the Cass County Marine Patrol is watching ...

their youth, to visits here as a man, with our family. This past Monday, Ron died peacefully in Chicago.

-Carol Dugan

Roads to be closed

We have just been notified by the Cass County Road Commission about a road closure. Brownsville Road will be closed through June 13. The detour will be Calvin Center, M60 and M62.

Redfield at the bridge East of Adamsville Road will also be closed starting Tuesday, May 29. The detour is Adamsville Road, US-12 and Cassopolis Street. This project is expected to continue through Aug. 24. If you have ques-

tions, you can contact the Road Commission at 269-445-8611.

Call for Entries: Birch Lake, how do I love thee?

We're looking for designers, artists, photographers, sketchers, and diletantes to contribute their ideas for interesting and unique Birch Lake or Birch Lake Yacht Club apparel and items to produce. Please contact Chas Grundy at chas@grundyhome.com for more information.

Barker Deadlines

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting information for any par-



It's a bird...it's a plane...no! It's Rich Mullin's umbrella. Remember to practice common sense lake safety procedures! (Fasten down your umbrella!)



Home Instead
SENIOR CARE®

To us, it's personal.

www.homeinstead.com/343

Call for a free, no-obligation appointment

574.256.1479

Owners: JP & Marlow Hoyer

Serving Michiana

Whether you are looking for someone to help you or a loved one a few hours a week, or need more comprehensive assistance, Home Instead can help.

- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Light Housekeeping
- Medication Reminders
- Incidental Transportation
- Shopping & Errands

Each Home Instead Senior Care franchise office is independently owned and operated. © 2012 Home Instead, Inc.

— Birch Lake Notes —

ticular edition is always the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the next issue is Tuesday, June5) ... thanks.

Cass County Conservation Club

The following events are scheduled at the Cass County Conservation Club on US 12 at Birch Rd.:

June 30 — Boating Safety Course
 July 14 & 15 — U-Pick'em Bingo
 Aug. 25 — Corn and Sausage Roast
 Sept. 15 & 16 — U-Pick'em Bingo
 Nov. 3 & 4 — Bingo Proceeds to

Weekly events include Line Dance class w/ Fran every Monday @ 6pm; Zumba every Wednesday @ 5:30 pm; Yoga every Tuesday @ 6 pm; Euchre every Thursday @ 6:30 pm.

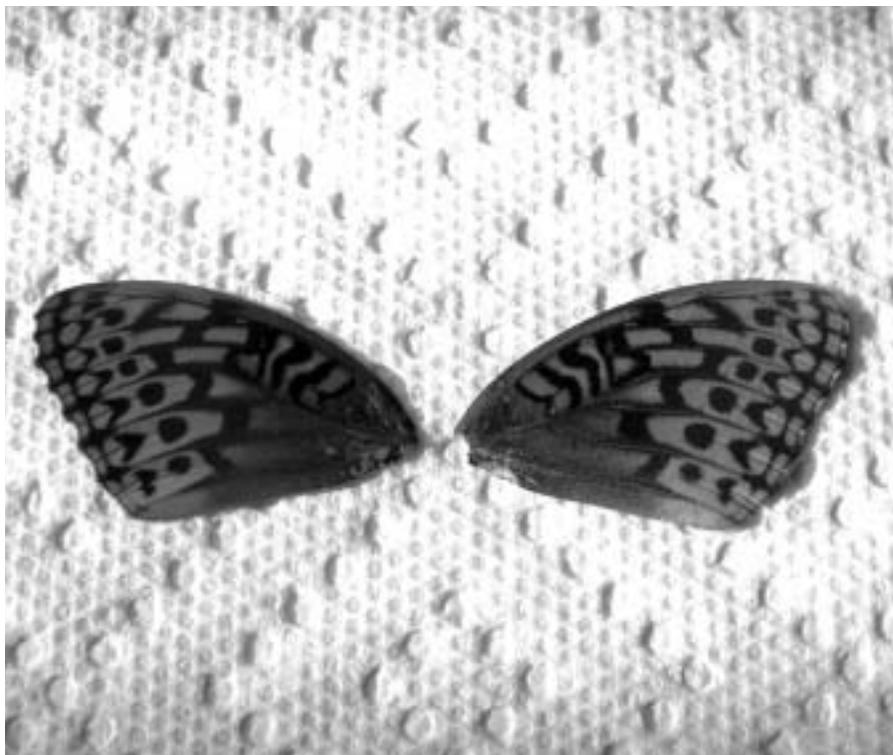
Advertising in the Barker

We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker (see page 17 of today's Barker).

Classified ads are free to members of the BLYC (non-member rate is \$5 per ad). Email your classified ads to the Barker at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

Display ads are charged at the low, one-time rate of \$65 for a 1/8 page ad; \$130 for a 1/4 page ad; \$260 for a 1/2 page ad; and \$520 for a full page ad.

For information and help building your ad, contact Phil at 476-1680, 445-9200 or sailorphil@philvitale.com.



Lost: the business end of what was a very pretty butterfly (bird breakfast?).

thanks to Mr. Bob for the interesting photo

All ads are subject to the approval of the editor and/or Commodore, officers and board of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

online this season, as well as additional content ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker will be

The Michigan Lakes & Streams May Newsletter is also available at on the Printed Barker page.



Serving Michigan and Indiana

Susie Tucker

REALTY

SusieTucker.com

Waterfront Specialist!

(269)641-5775 **(574) 320-6697**



Featured Listings:



Great home on Birch Lake with access to sandy swimming area and pier for a GREAT price! This 3-bedroom walkout has fabulous lake views from every room in the house and lakeside deck. There is a see-thru fireplace between the newly updated kitchen and dining area. New windows and exterior doors. Make this your year-round home or getaway. Enjoy the summer today!

Asking \$129,900

Very nice, all-brick home with 100 FT of very sandy beach on All-Sports Long Lake — with access into Coverdale Lake and canoeing and kayaking into the St Joe River. This



home is very spacious and has fabulous views from all of the large windows throughout. Gourmet kitchen with new flooring and eating area, Two fireplaces (living and family rooms), and rec area in lower level. New carpet in living room and master bedroom has built-ins and cedar closet. Beautiful terraced landscaping and patio with fire pit. Great home for entertaining!

Asking \$445,000

— Birch Lake Notes —

NEW EVENT — BLYC POKER RUN & Camp Tannadoonah Hog Roast

Saturday - July 21, 2012

Join the fun - first 52 players get to play! \$15 entry fee.

You will receive a playing Card at each home. Players must visit all 5 homes on Birch Lake to pick up cards to be eligible to win!. At the last (5th) home, poker hands will be presented to the official Dealers (Stan & Rich). Refreshments provided at each home.

Best Poker hand wins \$250; second best hand - \$100, third best \$50.

Event starts at 3pm - meet at Stu Spratt's and get the first card.

Other stops include:

West shore - Sheffieck's

East shore - Fallon's & Chester's

South shore - TBD

North shore - Mullin's

Pontoon transportation will be provided between stop! Finish at Mullin's. Attend the Camp Tannadoonah Annual Hog Roast afterwards - including Live Music and of course - the hog!!!!

Drop entry form off to any of the hosts - Mullin, Spratt, Sheffieck, Fallon, Chester. Limited to the first 52 players!!!!

USE THIS ENTRY FORM

Player name: _____

Player name: _____



STAMP
574-370-3918
LAWNCARE &
LANDSCAPING

*Mowing

*Spring & Fall Cleanup

*Fertilizing

*Mulch & Stone

*Sod Installation

*Snow Plowing

Phone: (574) 370-3918

Email: macstamp@hotmail.com

Locally Owned and Operated

Licensed and Insured

Contact us today for a Free Estimate!



**Thomas J.
Mosier**

Waterwell
Drilling

5" Water Wells

Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps

"Promise of Quality"

M-60 E
Cassopolis

Office: 269-445-3246

Cell: 269-580-3246

Fax: 269-445-0008

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Brogan Scheuer (2nd grandson of Pam and Rich Mullin, son of Matt and Sarah Scheuer, North shore) was born in February! This is his first dip in Birch Lake over Memorial Day Weekend!



A bevy of toe-dunkers get kid-of-the week honors this week, thanks to Dan Waxman (East side), who provided this great photo ...



These Swans recently came by to visit Woody, who ignored them ... as he was busy chasing minnows. The Swans hissed at him a few times then moved on. Woody lives with Jim Calderwood on the West side.



Nice Heron pic ... thanks, Mr. Bob



Ok, we're stretching a bit here but if dogs can be kids of the week, why not have two cats (catamarans, that is) on the page, too? Thanks to Mr. Bob for the photos and to the Kelly clan (Cove) for the show!

EALandscaping

Specializing in Rock & Boulder Construction

Noel D. Ermis
Owner/Operator

- Sea Walls
- Retaining Walls
- Waterfalls
- IN & MI Waterway Construction Permitting

574.612.2150
noel@ErmisAvenues.com

<http://birchlakeblog.wordpress.com/>



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Congratulations Morgann Applegate, daughter of Sanya and and granddaughter of Phil & Sandy Vitale (East side), knocked the 2012 ISTEPS out of the park, scoring pass plus (the highest mark) on EVERY standard! Yummy and Pop Pop have promised a reward plate of that yummie ice cream cake stuff at Jaywalker the next time Morgann comes for a visit.



Haley (the dog who lives with Mike and Amy Lutz, North Side) made a new friend this week when a turtle wandered into the yard. Said Amy, "Good thing it wasn't a snapper or Haley would have lost an inch or two of nose ..."



THANK YOU
FOR VOTING
US THE BEST
OF THE BEST!

Talk With A Live Person

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Best Of The Best!

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill- You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours
- Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!



After Hours
Emergency
Service

 Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

www.advantageplumbinginc.net



Memorial Day Regatta Results?

Y'heave ho! My lads, the wind blows free,
A pleasant gale is on our lee,
And soon across the ocean clear
Our gallant bark shall bravely steer.
But ere we part from freedom's shore tonight,
A song we'll sing for home and beauty bright.

Sailing, sailing,
Over the bounding main,
For many a stormy wind shall blow Ere Jack
comes home again,
Sailing, sailing,
Over the bounding main,
For many a stormy wind shall blow
Ere Jack comes home again!

Just trying to get in the mood with a little sea song or sea shanty. For those that have heard the term but couldn't quite articulate the definition shanties are the work songs that were used on the square-rigged ships of the Age of Sail. Their rhythms coordinated the efforts of many sailors hauling on lines. Much loved by modern sailors and folk musicians, they are rarely used as work songs today. This is because modern rigging doesn't require many people to be working in the same rhythm for long periods.

Traditional shanties can be grouped into three types: short haul shanties, for tasks requiring quick pulls over a relatively short time; halyard shanties, for heavier work requiring more setup time



between pulls; and capstan shanties, for long, repetitive tasks requiring a sustained rhythm, but not involving working the lines. They also come in G, PG, PG13, R and unrated. More next week.

At the 2011 end-of-season prize-giving the newly crowned Fleet Captain had every sailor draw a date from a hat. The purpose was to inscript race committee (RC) personnel in the event that there were insufficient volunteers.

Bob King had the misfortune of drawing Memorial Day weekend. Here's how he sees it: "Having no boat ready to sail, there I was, prepared to be RC and run the regatta. No one showed! So, you were all marked Did Not Start

(DNS) in the official Regatta score-keeping.

In past a concession was made for any sailor who served on the RC, giving them a 1st place for the race(s) that day. The last two years, Jeff Smitley, Fleet Captain Retired, awarded the sailor who did RC duty his season average. Fair enough!

Memorial Day Regatta results: MC
2nd - Bob King, MC 1199
DNS - everybody else

Sunfish
1st - Bob King, Sunfish
DNS - everybody else

The above results are not official, subject to protest, and may not match future results posted by Fleet Captain Spratt. TBD. Watch this space."

Fair enough indeed. Bob's season average thus far is zero, therefore he will be awarded equivalently.

As far as committee boat sign-ups go, my understanding is that Karen Brovold will be in charge this weekend and Bad Patty next. We have many open dates and will gladly accept all volunteers regardless of skill level. Harold Cranmer has generously volunteered once again to set the marks. Let's have a great season and let's have fun.

See you out there. That is all.

-Stewart Spratt
2012 Fleet Captain

SLOW DOWN

BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS

SLOW DOWN ON
OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!

SPEED LIMIT
15 MPH



Water Quality

Eurasian Milfoil

Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive, tall growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 10 to 15 feet of water. At the surface it forms a dense canopy of vegetation over other plants. Many native plants may be reduced in abundance by the Milfoil canopy. It also conflicts with many recreational activities. In dense conditions it is a serious localized and lake wide problem. It is not a significant food crop for waterfowl, other birds or aquatic mammals. It readily regenerated from detached fragments and spreads rapidly. Consequently this plant can form dense colonies covering much of a lake's shore line.

We have been successfully treating for Eurasian Milfoil for the last five years. Eurasian Milfoil is only one of the numerous invasive plant species that could appear in our lake. They are called invasive or exotic because they are not native to this area and therefore have few natural biological control agents.

This year we are continuing our invasive aquatic plant survey program. The annual program is important in order to keep the Milfoil under control and detect any other invasive species in the early stages to enable us to better control them. With your continued support we can maintain this important program and avoid having to deal with acres of invasive species like so many other lakes are currently dealing with.

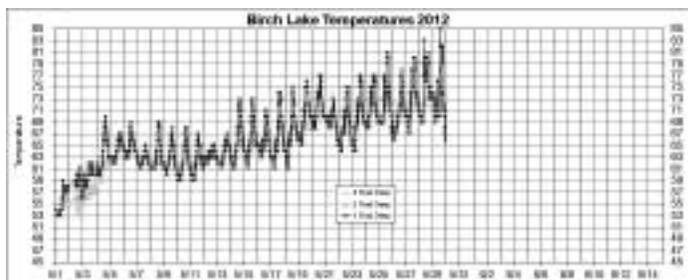
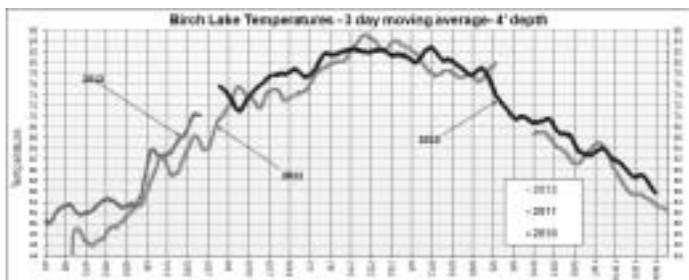
Progressive AE surveyed the entire lake for invasive species on May 22. They inspected last year's Milfoil sites and determined that we will only have to treat the east shore site, in the vicinity of the Vitale's, at this time. After the treatment they will return and survey the lake a second time and make further recommendations from their findings. The east shore site is smaller than last year. Progressive AE will provide a map with GPS coordinates to Professional Lake Management identifying the area requiring treatment. Professional Lake Management will tentatively treat the



week of June 4th and may return for a second treatment if needed.

Curly Leaf Pond Weed is replacing the Milfoil. Curly Leaf is an invasive species, however it should not be a problem, once the water temperature reaches and maintains 70 degrees it dies off. The opinion is that it is unlikely that it can thrive in our lake. We will continue to monitor it.

Thanks to all for your financial support of this important work.



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)

Other real estate agents talk about their listings ...

Let me tell you about my **RESULTS!**

5 showings, 2 offers,
Signed Contract
...IN 2 WEEKS!

Amy Lutz, Realtor

BIRCH LAKE Specialist; BIRCH LAKE Resident
Primary: 269-744-7746 Secondary: 269-663-5164
amylutz@cressyeverett.com
www.amylutz.cressyeverett.com

Cressy & Everett
REAL ESTATE

26251 US 12
Edwardsburg, MI 49112

Stu's Star Stuff

All about Venus

It's the Morning Star. No, it's the Evening Star. For crying out loud Stewart, haven't we heard this time and time again? We all know everything about Jupiter. Ha! Well guess what wise guys? We're talking about Venus. (Yeah, well, maybe you knew that.)

Venus orbits the sun on the inside of Earth's orbit, as does Mercury. Because of our relative motion our perception of either planet varies from the morning sky to the evening sky. Actually the same is true to some degree with the other planets but the speeds/distances involved make the changes much less obvious.

The planet Venus is about to complete its run as the evening star. It is quite low in the west at sunset, and sets by the time the sky gets completely dark. On June 5, Venus will move across the face of the Sun, a rare event known as a transit. This is in fact much like a solar eclipse seen often in places on Earth when the Moon passes between Earth and the Sun. Historically, this

rare alignment is how we measured the size of our solar system.

Venus crosses between Earth and the Sun every 19 months. Its orbit is tilted slightly with respect to Earth's orbit, though, so most of the time Venus passes just above or below the Sun. Occasionally, the geometry is just right, so Venus passes across the Sun.

Such transits happen in pairs, with the two halves of the pair separated by eight years. There was a transit eight years ago, so the June 5 transit is the last half of a pair. The pairs are separated by either 105.5 or 121.5 years. So after this year, the next transit isn't until 2117.

The June 5 transit begins about 6:04 p.m. EDT, when Venus first touches the edge of the solar disk. Venus will be fully immersed in the Sun's disk about 18 minutes later, and will remain inside the disk for another six hours. The Sun will set before then but trust me, it will continue and we will soon see Venus in the east in the early morning sky.

Look for Venus in the hours before

The Moon for June 2

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.979

1.2 days until full moon



sunset for now and in the predawn sky after June 5th. Don't look for the transit without proper eye protection, such as number 14 welder's glasses. Look for other stuff too. It's all up there and the show's always free.

STRAWBERRIES!



Raspberries mid June.

Now are a distribution point for Vandalia's Hebron Farms meats and eggs. Pasture raised, no cages, no hormones.

Open Daily 10 am - 6 pm

Diamond

Acres Farm

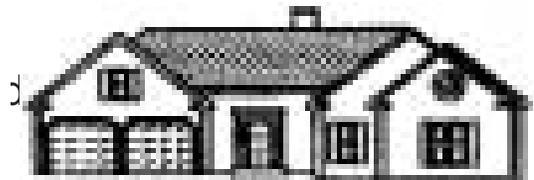


VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE!
www.diamondacresfarm.com

In Cassopolis behind the High School on Kamp Kozy

DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION

No Job Too Large or Too Small!



All Types of Remodeling
* New Home Construction *
Restoration

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

Bob Bienz 269-759-4010

63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI
email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

How Can Pier Perfection Help You?

Pier Perfection offers custom design, installation, removal, sales and service of dock products to help make your time on the water more enjoyable. As the premier service provider in Southwestern Michigan, we have built a reputation of quality and a commitment to excellence.

17228 M60
Vandalia, MI
49095



476-1500
fax 476-1510

PIER
PERFECTION

www.pierperfection.com

CUSTOM HOMES BY:

Salela
CONSTRUCTION L.L.C

- + GENERAL CONTRACTING
- + CUSTOM HOMES
- + TEAR DOWNS
- + COMPLETE RENOVATIONS
- + SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES
- + LICENSED IN MICHIGAN AND INDIANA

OVER 25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

269-445-HOME (4663)
Office

CALL TODAY TO DISCUSS
ALL OF YOUR
UPCOMING PROJECTS

Cassopolis
ibuildu1@aol.com

YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) — You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature. You may find that getting together with colleagues after hours will be worthwhile. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude. Sudden changes regarding work and colleagues are apparent. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) — Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. Having your own business is a good idea. Trips will be enjoyable, and communication with your lover will clear up any misconceptions. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) — You can make favorable changes in your home environment. Don't promise to deliver the goods if you aren't positive that you can meet the deadline. Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Relationships will be erratic this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Difficulties with older females in your family may turn out to be quit trivial after all. Don't be too quick to judge. Catch up on correspondence. Get together with friends for some competitive physical activities. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) — Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups or organizations. Get involved in groups that can offer intellectual stimulation. Don't let anyone take credit for a job you did. Travel will be favorable. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Put your thoughts into action. One-sided relationships are likely. Be discreet about your feelings, and hold back until you find out a little more about the person who's coming on to you. Financial gains can be made. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Travel may be confusing. You may want to take a look at your direction in life. Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Arguing won't help. Your lucky

day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — Chances are they are jealous. Stand up and propose your ideas, and you'll be surprised how many people will follow you. Overindulgence may be a problem. You may get upset with peers or relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) — You are able to make changes in your home that will be favorable to all involved. Your magnetic, outgoing personality will capture hearts. Join groups of a humanitarian nature. Business and emotional partnerships will run smoothly. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) — You can make money if you pursue your own business. Be aggressive and colorful, and you will get your way. You will be subject to pushy individuals if you get involved in uncertain organizations. Try not to take everything so seriously. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — Someone you work with may

be trying to make you look bad. Get some sound advice and help setting up a workable budget. You can mesmerize anyone you meet with your cultured attitude and outlook. Look into making changes to your personal papers and don't neglect those bills that have been piling up. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — You've been hurt before and could be again if you don't play hard to get. Plan to get together with someone special later in the day. It's time you let your true feelings out. Your personal situation is fluctuating. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK ...

... you are probably older than you were last week, not to mention older than you think. Be especially vigilant this week — watch for email and computer scams — don't believe anything sent to you by someone named Charley, and never, ever forward a chain email that threatens dire events if you don't forward it. You will probably be contacted this weekend by a shifty looking, very skinny man with slicked back hair, who at first be trying to sell you a 1980s vintage Dodge. Don't buy it, the transmission is bad!



Satori Salon and Spa
11920 McKinley St., Jones, MI 49061
www.satorisalonandspa.com
244-5510
Open Tues-Fri from 9-7, Sat from 9-4

At Satori our elite certified staff specializes in organic Salon & Spa services. Come experience our full service Hair Salon & Day Spa. Experience the "Natural" difference. Find us near the intersection of M-40 & M-60 (next to the Fire Dept.)

Find us on Facebook



**CHIMNEY SWIFT
CHIMNEY SWEEPS**

RON COLBORN

58550 Eller Drive
Osceola, IN 46561
Ph: (574) 674-5257
Cell: (574) 514-4831



Your local hometown hero ...

As your local independent agent, we're your neighbor - someone you can trust and someone who's here for you 24/7!

UNION INSURANCE AGENCY

Corner of US 12 & Union Rd., Union, MI 49130

Independent Agency

269-641-5995

fax: 269-641-5787

email: Sue@unionins.net

www.unionins.net

Auto-Owners Insurance 

~Birch Lake Recipes~

Bacon Ranch Pasta Salad

“This is a very flavorful pasta salad. The crisp cooked bacon really adds a nice flavor. I get requests for this pasta salad for every get together and cook out.”

Ingredients

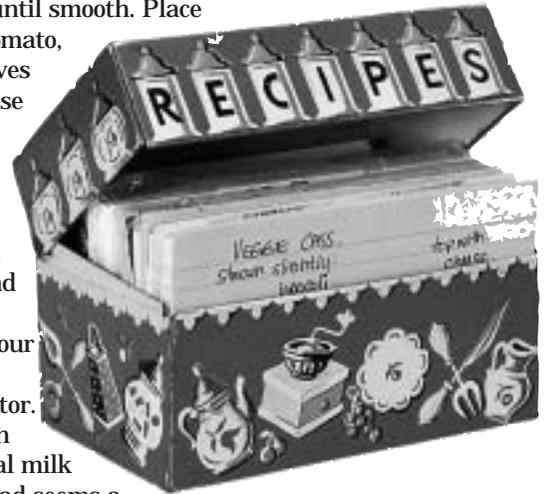
- 1 (12 ounce) package uncooked tri-color rotini pasta
- 10 slices bacon
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons dry ranch salad dressing mix
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic pepper
- 1/2 cup milk, or as needed
- 1 large tomato, chopped

- 1 (4.25 ounce) can sliced black olives
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Directions

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Stir in rotini pasta and cook for 10 to 12 minutes or until al dente; drain.
2. Place bacon in a skillet over medium-high heat and cook until evenly brown. Drain and chop.
3. In a large bowl, mix mayonnaise, ranch dressing mix, garlic powder, and garlic pepper. Stir

in milk until smooth. Place bacon, tomato, black olives and cheese in bowl and toss to coat with dressing. Cover and chill at least 1 hour in the refrigerator. Toss with additional milk if the salad seems a little dry.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

Spring Challenges at Birch Lake

Find each of the following words.

HUMIDITY
POLLEN
POISONIVY
MOWING
MUDPUDDLES
WEEDS
SNAKES
ZEBRAMUSSELS

ALLERGIES
PIGSMELL
STORMS
GENERATORS
TICKS
TORNADOWATCH
LIGHTENING
DEERFLIES

MOSQUITOES
SLUGS
YARDWORK
GNATS
POWEROUTAGES
DUCK ITCH

K E A A P P G N A T S L U E N Z A R T O
 E D L O S N A K E S D G E N E R A T U P
 E E L W M H R T I C K S R D U C K I N S
 T E E U O P C T O S T O R M S S C A M E
 E R R M O S Q U I T O E S I T P Y K O S
 E F G O G E N E R A T O R S S T E D W U
 D L I I L I G H T E N I N G I P E S I A
 S I E N D U C K I T C H S D S I S W N I
 T F S P O L L E N N S L I E M G S P G O
 I O I H S M W E E F E M G G U S P O E C
 T S R A D S U K I S U A P P D M O I G T
 I O Z N G E I D S H T L I B P E I S N S
 Y Z R U A T E U P U L Y G R U T S O A T
 L A L N N D M R O U W L S S D S O N T S
 D S R Q A A O R F M D E M E D O N I A I
 V Z O D R D E W M L E D E M L S I V I P
 E A M B W W O P A T I P L D E L R Y O R
 L T E I O O T W A T Z E L S S L E L T S
 S Z R P O E R P A W C T S A S E O R S D
 G G O I I U R K N D K H A S B M C S I N

— BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATE —

It's time to update our beloved Birch Lake Directory, and the sooner we get your information, the sooner your household can have a brand new, crisp, accurate and informative directory.

At right is an update form.

You may:

1. Drop it off to Fallon's at 63600 Birch Road (brown house, green roof)
2. Mail it to 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia MI 49095
3. Fax it to 269-476-1467
4. Complete the form at the Ladies' Tea on June 15
5. Complete the form at the Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast
6. Complete it, scan it and send the pdf to Celia.Fallon@gmail.com
7. Or ignore it and allow the editors to decide your directory entry.

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UPDATE OF BLYC DIRECTORY

Name(s): _____

Birch Lake address: _____

Cottage number (if known): _____

Off-lake address: _____

Other address: _____

Lake phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Email addresses: _____

Children : (Please state ages as of August 31, 2012) _____

Other information (optional): _____



O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories

Serving you for over **20 years**

12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269.244.1446
e-mail: info@odonnellsdocks.com



For an on-line quote, go to:

www.odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized dealer for




Open 7 days a week

Moomba
Wakeboard Boats



Sales Service Storage

Windjammer Funtop 24' Elite

Avalon
LEISURE PONTON BOATS

APOLLO MARINE

SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE
15355 96TH AVE
Lawton, Michigan 49065
269.423-6011

1-888-996-BOAT
RAUAPOLLO@AOL.COM

WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET

Camp Tannadoonah

It's nearly Camp Season!

Summer is coming! We're getting very close to the start of camp 2012. We are having a Lifeguard Training at camp next week — Wednesday through Friday. Then the waterfront staff arrives on Saturday, June 9th, and the rest of the staff arrives Sunday, June 10th for training! It's not even officially here yet, and the summer already feels like it's flying by!

We are still right on pace with last year's registration numbers so far. On May 29th last year we had 391 campers registered for camp, and as of this afternoon we had 396. That's 45 more kids than we had for the entire summer in 2006 and 2007. We're still hoping to pass 600 campers for this year, so please spread the word about camp!

We have plenty more Tannadoonah yard signs if you have a good place to display one. We'd love to recruit from a larger area, too (e.g., Chicago, Ohio, Michigan, Indy, or even further!). I also have lots of Tannadoonah postcards if you want to share info about camp with friends and family.

This afternoon we had our document review for our American Camp Association accreditation. The visitor looked over all of our materials and said

that everything is in order so far! Now she'll return on June 25th and stay for a day of camp in action to make sure we're actually doing all the things we said we are!

We have some great themes for this summer, and are getting excited about planning the activities and decorations for each week. We kick off the summer with Gameshow Week, then move on to Survivor Week, Outer Space Mini Week, International Week, Christmas in July Week, Hawaiian Week, Olympic Week, and finally Pirate Week. It's a good thing we have some creative people on our staff to help plan out all those activities!

Speaking of our staff, we've started a "Meet the Staff" webpage this year! I've been posting bios and photos of all our staff. So if you're sending a camper to camp this year, or you're just curious about our counselors, you can check out here: <http://tinyurl.com/campstaff>

We're also working on a bunch of projects around camp this spring. We had some muskrats or something that made a mess of the waterfront this winter, digging a bunch of holes along the shoreline. So if you see people working down there over the next week or so,

don't worry — they're just repairing the holes!

We're also working on painting the interior of the shower house, and plan to let the kids add colorful handprints to the walls over the course of the summer. We will be getting the shower house floor sealed, installing two new basketball hoops, new flooring in the bathroom in Morris, and new ceiling fans and lights in the Birds cabins. Plus we hope to put in a new split rail fence along the front of the dining hall lawn, and the edge of the Bird Yard.

Last weekend we put in a garden up by the dining hall! We planted 3 kinds of peppers, 3 kinds of tomatoes, lettuce, swiss chard, pole beans, cucumbers, zuchinis, garlic, onions, and several different herbs. Now if it would just rain! It's not looking so good right now, but we're hopeful that it will supply us with a lot of fresh veggies up at camp this summer.

It's been a busy spring, and we're super excited for our staff to arrive and kick things off!

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org
574-217-4731

SPAGHETTI-FEST

JUNE 23, 6 - 8 pm

Come see the new Yacht Club door purchased with the proceeds from last year's dinner!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Tickets available at the Commodore's Cocktail Party June 9, The Ladies' Coffee June 15, from any member of TEAM EASTSIDE, or by calling 476-2125

\$8 for adults
\$5 for kids 4-10 years old
kids under 3 eat free
To-Go (carry-out) available



Tickets must be purchased in advance



CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>

FOUR LAKES COUNTRY CLUB!

Adamsville, Michigan — 4 miles east of Edwardsburg on US 12

Meet your friends
for golf and/or dining!

(First Fish night Friday, April 6th)

Plan Now for:

Outings — Leagues — Open Play

Weddings, Receptions, Rehearsal Dinners, Parties, Lunches, Banquets

CALL

Pro Shop — 269-699-5701 (Scott)

Club House — 269-699-5349 (Maria)

www.fourlakescc.com

2012 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

2012 BLYC Officers

Pam Mullin Commodore (N).....476-1080
Classegirl1@comcast.net

Chas Grundy Vice Comm (H)574-968-7022
Chas.grundy@gmail.com

Holly Troeger Treasurer (E).....476-9898
amvine@aol.com

Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com

Stewart Spratt Fleet Captain (N) ...476-2113
s1svb1@comcast.net

Stan Pitakos (N).....476-2113
stanpitakos@yahoo.com

Steve Quinlan (W)476-8802
stevequinlan2@yahoo.com

Vickie Rogers (C)476-2383
tvrogers@netscape.com

Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E)476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

Denise Smitley (W)476-9000
dsmitley@industrial-pack.com

2012 BLYC Directors

Bob Baucus (N).....476-2863
rebauc@aol.com

Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com

Karen Brovold (W)476-8862
karenbrovold@yahoo.com

Harold Cranmer (W).....476-2170
dhcranmer@yahoo.com

Terry Dugan (S)476-2814
s581122@aol.com

Fred Freihofer (N).....476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com

Patty Luecht (E).....476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com

Mike Lutz (N)476-2843
mmtlconcrete@aol.com

PJ Vandewalle (H)
pjvandewalle@gmail.com

Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com

Sue Williams (S)476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net

NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

Jim Boliinger BLYC Homeowners' Association
 Chairman (E).....476-9737
debo36@comcast.net

Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee
 Chairman (E).....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

Bob Waddle (E)476-2293
sparkybob220@comcast.net

Handyman Repairs

- Roof to basement - inside and out
- Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C
- Piers and Seawalls

Home Maintenance

- Painting - interior and exterior
- Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing

Lawn Care

- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

Property Management

- Reliable caretaker
- Fulfills all absentee homeowner's needs
- Periodically checks your property
- Provides second home peace of mind
- Call for all lake property requirements



Dave's Residential Services
 (269) 476-2797; Wireless (269) 362-0724
davehardisty@comcast.net



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



2012 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form
SUPPORT THE BLYC; SUPPORT THE BIRCH LAKE COMMUNITY!

\$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues
(\$10 / year)

\$ _____

\$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)

\$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

Name _____

\$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund

\$ _____ - Fireworks Fund

Address _____

\$ _____ - Water Quality Program

\$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife

Eradication Program

\$ _____ - Safety Committee

\$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$ _____ - BLYC Roof Fund (NEW)

Make checks payable to
BLYC
c/o Holly Troeger
1516 Ash Dr. East
Elkhart, IN 46514

When it's time to sell your lake property, we can *lure* the right buyers.

- *Direct 1st Class mail of your property data sheet to our buyer database*
- *E-mail of your property to our lake buyer lists with link to color web page*
- *Color listing of your property on our website, www.jerdon.net*
- *Direct 1st Class mail of your property data sheet to owners on your lake*
- *Color Lake Property Home guide mailed to buyers & 8,500 lake owners*
- *Advertising in Illinois, Indiana & Michigan home guides*
- *Our own Southwest Michigan Map including lake map and lake size table.*



Visit our website
www.jerdon.net
(269) 782-4000

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

E-mail sailorphil@philvitale.com ... mail or drop to 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

FOR SALE

For sale: **Older MC sailboat with two sails plus trailer.** \$300. Call JP at 476-2656

Three piece vintage (1950's by R.J. Bunting Co from Phil. PA.) **porch set:** glider sofa (makes into a bed,) glider chair, and rocking chair. New blue Naugahyde cushions. In EXCELLENT condition



and has never been outside. Must see to to appreciate. Call Peggy Cowen (269) 476-2786.

Large, heavy, cast iron wood-burning heating stove. 23-1/2" x 32-1/2" x 49" high. \$750 obo. Also for sale: hide-a-bed (double) \$25 obo. Call cell phone (574-315-1193 or home (574) 272-0627.

For Sale — **92 Sea Ray 170 Bow Rider,** 3.0 merCruiser with 92 Shorelander trailer. 26108 Aluminum Shore Station. All in excellent condition. Bob Palm 574-298-2480

2001-18' Bennington Pontoon Boat with 2008 Honda 40 hp 4-stroke, cover. Excellent condition.

\$7,400. 445-2669



For sale — **The most frequently seen pontoon boat on Birch Lake is for Sale!** Phil & Sandy's 1982 Crest Pontoon w/peace sign; newer bimini top, carpet, helm, captain's chair, bench seat and arm rest; Newer 25 hp Mercury 4-stroke, Bigfoot outboard. Well maintained, runs great! \$3,500 obo.

WANTED

Almost ready to sail. All I need is a **rudder for a Sunfish.** Please contact Bill Carpenter Cottage 12. 574-340-5559

WANTED: Inexpensive bicycle - Please contact Chas Grundy at chas@grundyhome.com or 574.315.0217.

Looking for a reliable babysitter week of July 9th 9:30 AM – 4PM on Birch Lake. Please call Julie Wright 317-490-4573 for more information.

Tim and I and our Standard Poodle Charlie **want to rent a place on Birch for half of June through half of August,** or something like that, were flexible! Our contact number is 1-850-554-0769, or 850-934-3688. Email, tim.burchell@aopsales.com, lizbur@bellsouth.net

Tannadoonah camper parents looking for a **place on the lake to rent the week of July 29 through August 4.** Contact Miss Amber at 574-217-4731

Work Wanted — Looking for odd jobs! A friend of ours is going to be staying with us for a few weeks and he is out of work. Looking for any odd jobs such as spring cleanup, mowing, raking, planting, trimming, general carpentry or any other job you don't have time for or don't want to do. Has lake references. Reasonable Rates. Call Matt Hudson at 616-818-6633 or Staci Whiteman at 269-816-5755

HOMES FOR SALE

Grundy house on the Hill. Visit <http://bit.ly/birch-lakehouse> for more info. Contact Chas Grundy at chas@grundyhome.com or 574.315.0217.

Delightful Eastside A-Frame lakefront cottage. New on the market — contact Ilene Golden at 574-360-8766

BirchLakeHomeForSale.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Did you know that Patti Russwurm is going to turn the big something-0 (birthday ending with a zero!) this year ... be sure to wish her a happy birthday!

The Closest Marina to Birch Lake!

8 MILES FROM THE LAKE, IN "ZIMMYVILLE" JUST SOUTH OF US 12

Pontoon Boat Specials!

2012 MANITOU PONTOONS

Aurora 18' Black w/Mercury 25 hp \$15265.71

Aurora 20' Burgundy w/Mercury 40 hp Bigfoot \$17617.18

Aurora 22' Blue w/Mercury 60 hp \$19402.55

Oasis 23' SE VP Black — Rear Lounge Hi-Performance V-Toon w/Mercury 150 hp Optimax

In-floor storage; 40 mph with four passengers! \$32495.00

2012 XCURSION PONTOONS by Forest River

X-21C Black w/40 hp Mercury Bigfoot \$18995

Dock Store Specials!

4 x 10 foot Pier sections

Treated Wood	\$169
Treated Wood and Aluminum	\$269
Aluminum	\$409
Anodized Aluminum	\$509
Sheerline White Vinyl.....	\$549

4-foot Aluminum Post Assembly

Includes 1 crossarm, 2 posts, 2 crossarm clamps, 2 stringer brackets, and 2 augers or 8" bottom plates.
Post Height ...3'4'5'6'7'8'10'
\$/assembly...\$109...\$117 ..\$122...\$128\$135.....\$140....\$155
<small>Other Styles and Sizes available</small>

Otter Island Rafts 8 x 10' (Yellow or Tan).....	\$1349
1400# PWC Lift	\$895



69545 Sunset Blvd, Union, MI

SALES — SERVICE — STORAGE

In water/on site
MOBILE MECHANIC
We'll come to you!

We've Got You Covered!



SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- Aluminum Porch Canopies
- Boat Covers and Tops
- Canvas Repair
- Aluminum Awnings



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



*Locally owned
and operated
since 1985*

**SUN
&
SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com